

Geological time scale

This task is about reading information from a geological time scale.

Use the Geological Time Scale to answer these questions.

Era	Sub-era	Age Millions of years ago
Cenozoic Cz	Quaternary	1.64
	Tertiary	65.0
Mesozoic Mz	Cretaceous	145.6
	Jurassic	208.0
	Triassic	245.0
Paleozoic Pz	Permian	290.0
	Carboniferous	362.5
	Devonian	408.5
	Silurian	439.0
	Ordovician	510.0
	Cambrian	570.0

a) What is the oldest 'Era' shown on this scale?

b) What is the most recent 'Sub-era'?

c) How long did the Permian 'Sub-era' last? million years

d) A group of dinosaurs called Stegosaurus roamed the Earth between 188 and 65 million years ago.

What was the main 'Sub-era' they lived in?

e) What does the z stand for in the abbreviation Pz?

f) Why do scientists use abbreviations for time periods?

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